



Edmonton Public Library (EPL)

Creating a barrier free environment through the use of technology, specialized equipment and software enables all individuals to equally benefit from a local community service. Our feature article highlights how a local resource in the community, The Edmonton Public Library, has provided technology to enable their library patrons.

The **Library Access Division (LAD)** of Edmonton Public Library is found in the downtown branch, at Sir Winston Churchill Square. It offers a variety of assistive services and many adaptive technologies.

- The *Library Equal Access Project (LEAP)* computer work station is found in LAD. It provides numerous computer components and software packages available for free for public use.
- For those with visual impairments a *CCTV Magnifier* enlarges text, images and objects and can also alter the colours or contrasts found on the screen. A SARA (Scanning & Reading Appliance) reader scans documents and can then “read out” the material in a computerized voice. Both hardware and software to create Braille material are also available on site.
- To accommodate the *physical needs* of our library patrons two fully-functional computer workstations are available, both on fully height-adjustable desks, to best accommodate wheelchairs or walkers. Special mice are also available upon request, including a trackball and joystick while alternate keyboards (Intellikeys) may also be easily added. A full-function scanner is included, which can take printed text and convert it to electronic text. The electronic text can be read aloud if desired. Various low tech communication boards are on hand, including symbol and word boards to facilitate communication in the library.
- *Software* found on both workstations includes software text to speech (Read & Write Gold), Magic Standard (screen reader), JAWS Professional (audio output), Soft Type (an onscreen keyboard), Duxbury Braille Translator as well as Internet and word processing packages.

As might be expected, Edmonton Public Library also offers a wide assortment of *large print books and books on CD* that can be listened to, instead of read. A library

card permits up to 40 items to be checked out at any one time, with a borrowing time of 3 weeks for books and CDs. There are also movies, video games and Best Sellers (new releases of books, music and film) that have a 1 week borrowing timeframe. All material can be returned to any of the 17 EPL branches spread across the city.

Fairly new to the collection, and available on-line, are a myriad of *electronic resources*. These include e-audio books and e-music resources that may be loaded onto personal computers or MP3 players. There are also e-books (to be downloaded to e-readers) that allow the font size and other display features to be altered as required. Numerous electronic databases feature on-line issues of current newspapers and magazines from around the world.

Interactive books for children and on-line encyclopedias may assist youngsters in school-related activities.

The EPL website is found at www.epl.ca and details concerning assistive technologies and digital materials are found under the “services” and “digital content” tabs.

Every Edmonton resident, with identification and proof of address, may obtain a library card. People living outside of the city limits may obtain a reciprocal membership upon presentation of a current library card from their “home” library and personal identification. At this time, reciprocal borrowers do not have access to the on-line portion of EPL’s collection but may contact their own library system to see what is offered there.

All EPL locations are wheelchair accessible and open seven days a week, with most locations offering evening hours from Monday to Thursday and Sunday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m. Staff at the Library Access Division itself are available in person or by phone (780-496-1888) on Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Submitted by Wendy Howie
Associate Manager, Outreach and Community Services,
Centre for Reading and the Arts, Stanley A. Milner
branch, Edmonton Public Library*

Announcements:

Welcome to I CAN Centres two new team members--

Krista Chichak, Occupational Therapist and

River Wilson, Speech Language Pathologist



Kilometres for Communication

rolls through Alberta the first week of June, 2011. Partnered with the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) – Canada, this cross-country tour will promote AAC awareness and raise funds as cyclists travel from Tofino, BC to St. John's, NL.

Kilometres for Communication was initiated by a family of four—Kerr Wattie, Skye Wattie, Gail Fisher-Taylor and Burns Wattie. Kerr, an AAC user (see his story below), will travel via bike-and-trailer powered by his younger brother, Skye. Mom Gail and dad Burns will accompany them using a different set of wheels. Kerr's family knows that ...“everyone without speech deserves ready access to the AAC services and technology they need to communicate. However, many Canadians cannot easily access these services. Funding for communication devices,” writes Gail, “is unavailable in a number of provinces, or else dependent on services which have long waiting lists.” Together with ISAAC-Canada, they're conducting a public education, information and awareness campaign to change provincial policies so that vital AAC services, supports and technology are consistently available in all provinces. They're campaigning for the people who must have these services in order to fully participate in Canadian society.

With the help of local and national media, Canadians will hear the stories of people who speak with AAC. This is a wonderful and timely opportunity for us Albertans to profile the benefit, and need, of continued AAC services and resources in our province and country. You can become involved now in several ways:

- Visit the **Kilometres For Communication** on their website <http://kilometresforcommunication.com/>, Facebook, or Twitter.
- Sign up to wheel, walk, or run with the Kilometres for Communication team for up to a 5K stretch of their 6-day Southern Alberta route.

- Register to cycle with the Kilometres for Communication team for a portion of the tour.
- Consider sponsoring a team member, or start your own event. See the website for details.
- Share your own or a family member's AAC story....

What's Your Story?

You don't have to bike across Canada to have traveled wide and far. Many individuals with complex communication needs have come miles—literally or figuratively—in their personal communication “journey.” At www.kilometresforcommunication.com, read stories of inspiring people who use augmentative communication:

- **Kerr**, an artist, activist and presenter with visual impairment who listens as his device scrolls through choices, then picks via a switch the messages he wants.
- **Tony**, a disabled rights activist and freelance writer who happens to have cerebral palsy.
- **Rebecca**, born in a war-torn country, now supports (and is supported by) her ever-growing circle of friends.
- **Marlowe**, who re-learned to communicate, uses a letter board, an AAC device, a speakerphone, and social networking sites.
- **Tien**, who immigrated at age 9, lives independently and dreams of bringing hope to others.
- **Penny**, a graduate of Saint Mary's University, communicates with companions through her eye movements.

Gail Fisher-Taylor, one of the founders, writes:

I'm wondering if you would be willing to tell your story. We think people's stories are the most powerful pages of the website. If you are willing, your story should be concise—preferably no more than 1000 words. We'd like it to be informal and personal, as if you were talking or writing to a good friend.

If you are okay with it, please send some photos for posting on our website with your story, and possibly on other sections of the website. It will be important to ensure that the photographer grants permission for the use of the photos on our website. We do reserve the right to edit, but will send you the edited copy for approval before posting.

Perhaps you, too, would like to share your story with **Kilometres for Communication**. Do so at <http://kilometresforcommunication.com/submit-a-story1/>

GLENROSE FAMILY ADVISORY NETWORK (GFAN)

Originally known as the Glenrose Parent Advisory Council (PAC), the Glenrose Family Advisory Network (GFAN) has recently expanded its' focus to create numerous avenues for family member involvement. GFAN will release our first newsletter in the near future and we hope it will be one of many to come. The goal of the newsletter is to connect with families and staff through an exchange of information and to advance the discussion and work in the area of Family Centred Care. We welcome your input, stories and suggestions!

One of the goals of GFAN is to expand the network in the areas of parent and staff representation to promote Family Centred Care at the Glenrose. GFAN will provide a link between families, staff, physicians and senior leadership to strengthen our partnerships.

There are a number of ways you can become involved with the network. For example, you may be interested in receiving more information about the Network, on in providing feedback on services, or participate in a research project. If you are interested in becoming involved with GFAN in any capacity, please submit an application. Applications are available through Program Co-ordinators at gfan@albertahealthservices.ca. Once an application is received, you will be contacted by a member of GFAN to discuss how you would like to be involved.

WHAT IS FAMILY CENTRED CARE?

The basic premise of Family Centred Care is that patients and families are valued as members of the team and need to have the opportunity to be actively involved in decision making about their child's care. Essentially, Family Centred Care means "*Nothing for me, without me.*" (author unknown)

Why Family Centred Care and why now?

Parents and professionals are realizing the benefits of Family Centred Care. Hospitals within Canada and the U.S. have formed Family Networks and Councils with parent representatives. At a minimum, parents are being involved as team members in their child's care. However, they are also being involved in system level processes such as staff hiring, training, education and the development of policies and procedures. Parents have also been involved in peer support programs

where parents provide social support and information to other parents of children with disabilities.

There are many Family Centred Care initiatives currently underway at the Glenrose. One example is a recent grant from the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation to develop a family-to-family support program.

"Most parents would admit that parenting is a challenge, with difficulties and unexpected learning opportunities around every corner.... All too often parents can feel isolated when they have a child with special needs." Excerpt from P2P USA website

We are excited to have Darlene Thompson as the Parent Consultant for the program development and implementation of our family-to-family support program. *Welcome Darlene!*

Look for more information on Family Centred Care in the upcoming GFAN newsletter. We welcome your ideas and contributions!

To submit an application to GFAN or story for the newsletter or to get more information about GFAN, please contact: Darlene Thompson at gfan@albertahealthservices.ca

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**I CAN Centre
for Assistive Technology
new web address:**

www.albertahealthservices.ca/icancentre.asp



I CAN Centre for Assistive Technology Winter Calendar 2011

February 2011

**Thursday 17 February 2011
1 - 3 pm (Check-in 12:45 pm)**

Working with PASS software

Discover the features of PASS beyond using it for programming. This will be an online session that you can attend at the I CAN Centre or join from another location. To attend from school or home you will need a high speed internet connection and a telephone or computer headset. When registering, please indicate whether you will attend at the I CAN Centre, from home or school. If you choose an alternate location an invite will be mailed to you with the details for joining the training.



**Elaine Holtham, Aroga representative, will present this on-line session.
Registration required.**

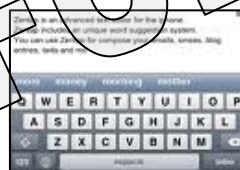
No fee

Registration Deadline: 10 February 2011

**Thursday 24 February 2011
1 – 4 pm (Check-in 12:45 pm)**

Using the iPod Touch, iPhones and iPad with special needs population

During this half day session, we will explore some of the ways that the iPod touch, iPad, and iPhone are being used as an assistive technology tool. We will discuss some of the built-in accessibility features of the devices. We will also demonstrate apps currently being used with special needs individuals to support organization, communication, and writing.



Registration required.

Fee \$50.00

Thursday 10 March 2011

Advancing with your Prentke Romich Communication Device (PRC) – Creating Visual Scene Displays

This advanced workshop will be of interest to parent, educators and clinicians who have a working knowledge of specific PRC devices (ECO, Vantage Lite, Springboard Lite, Vantage/Vanguard (software version 5.0 and higher)). This workshop will focus on creating and working with visual scene displays. Participants may wish to bring a couple digital images and a Flash Drive to save work created during the session.



Creating Visual Scenes for use with Children 10 – 12 noon (Check-in 9:45 am)

Creating Visual Scenes for use with Adults 1 – 3 pm (Check-in 12:45 pm)

Elaine Holtham, Aroga representative, will present this hands-on session.

Registration required.

No fee

Registration Deadline: 03 March 2011

Thursday 17 March 2011
10 – 12 noon (Check-in 9:45 am)

Dynavox Advanced training – Learning MP3 and E-Reader

Bring a few songs downloaded on a USB stick. You will learn and practice how to import a playlist onto your device.



Emilia Puteri, Dynavox representative, will present this hands-on session

Registration required.

No fee

Registration Deadline: 10 March 2011

Thursday 17 March 2011
1 – 3 pm (Check-in 12:45 pm)

Dynavox Advanced training – Learning about email and Internet

Learn to setup an email account and surf the internet with your Dynavox and set up buttons to launch applications from within your speaking software.



Emilia Puteri, Dynavox representative, will present this hands-on session

Registration required.

No fee

Registration Deadline: 10 March 2011

April 2011

Thursday 07 April 2011
9 - 3 pm (Check-in 8:45 am)



Boardmaker 6.0

Prerequisites: Basic computer skills, including mousing.

Attend this popular one-day session to learn how to use *Boardmaker* software more effectively. *Boardmaker* is a graphics database containing thousands of pictures. Make professional looking communication displays or use the program to create colorful worksheets, picture instruction sheets, reading books, journals, schedules and activity posters. In addition to the basics, learn how to customize symbols, search categories for symbols, use bilingual symbol labels, and more! Gain lots of practical ideas and view numerous examples using *Boardmaker* in this hands-on session. You will use *Boardmaker 6.0* in this session. Participants may wish to bring a USB Flash Drive to save work created during the session.

Registration required.

Fee \$99.00

Registration Deadline: 31 March 2011

Thursday 14 April 2011
10 – 12 noon (Check-in 9:45 am)

Classroom Suite 4

Classroom Suite Version 4 enables teachers to use flexible tools to deliver and leverage the power of direct instruction that reflect national education standards to students in grades pre-K through 5.



Classroom Suite 4 features include:

- Reading Activities, including Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency and Comprehension that are aligned to Reading First and the National Reading Panel.
- Interactive Writing templates across many genres, including Science and Social Studies.
- Wide-ranging and interactive Math instruction targeting number sense and automaticity.

Come learn how this one piece of software can support students with reading, writing and math.

Claire MacLaren, Bridges representative, will present this hands-on session.

Registration required

No Fee

Registration Deadline: 06 April 2011

Thursday 14 April 2011
1 – 3 pm (Check-in 12:45 pm)

SOLO V. 6

SOLO is a literacy suite of the most popular assistive technology accommodations, including a text reader, graphic organizer, talking word processor, and word prediction. The new version (SOLO 6) was completely redesigned to be simple to use, yet powerful for students who struggle to read and write. For these students, SOLO 6 places all of the right tools at their fingertips. The accommodations in SOLO put students in charge of their own learning. The Solo literacy suite consists of Read Outloud, Draftbuilder, Writer Outloud and Co:Writer . Come learn how one or all of these software programs can support student learning in the classroom.



Claire MacLaren, Bridges representative, will present this hands-on session.

Registration required.

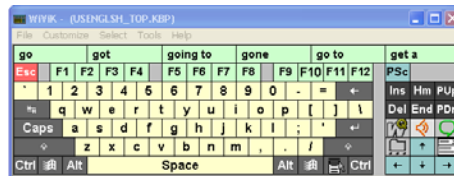
No Fee

Registration Deadline: 07 April 2011

May 2011

Thursday 12 May 2011
10 – 12 noon (Check in 9:45 am)

WIVIK on-screen keyboard software and WordQ2 word prediction software



Discover the features of PASS beyond using it for programming. This will be an online session that you can attend at the I CAN Centre or join from another location. To attend from school or home you will need a high speed internet connection and a telephone or computer headset. When registering, please indicate whether you will attend at the I CAN Centre, from home or school. If you choose an alternate location an invite will be mailed to you with the details for joining the training.

Elaine Holtham, Aroga representative, will present this on-line session.

Registration required.
No Fee
Registration Deadline: 5 May 2011

Thursday 19 May 2011 **Using the iPod Touch, iPhones and iPad**

Currently, Apple posts over 250,000 apps available for the iPod family. How does one sort through this overwhelming number of apps? In a series of different sessions, we will explore some of the ways that the iPod touch, iPad and iPhones are being used as an assistive technology tool, and highlight some apps that may benefit the individuals with whom we work. Participants will:

- Receive a list of apps related to their chosen workshop topic (see below)
- Discover strategies for evaluating assistive technology apps prior to purchase.
- Learn what should be considered prior to recommending iPod/iPad technology and apps for particular individuals.

These sessions are general sessions on the Apple mobile devices, intended for individuals who are new to or beginning to explore the iPod, iPad or iPhone. Registrants have two options of workshops to attend, each focusing on different purposes for using an iDevice:

iPods, iPads, and Apps for Literacy, Math, and Organization 9-12 noon (Check in 8:45 am)
(including inputting text, writing, reading, reminders, homework agenda).

Registration required.
Fee \$50.00
Registration Deadline: 12 May 2011

iPods, iPads, and Apps for Augmentative Communication 1-400 pm (Check in 12:45 pm)
(including text-to-speech typing, full-featured vocabulary sets, and picture-supporting choice making.)

Registration required.
Fee \$50.00
Registration Deadline: 12 May 2011

**Thursday 26 May 2011
10 – 12 noon (Check-in 9:45 pm)**

Dynavox Advanced training – Page Sharing and Environmental Controls

Come learn how to enhance your communication power using text messaging. We will also learn to teach the device how to control your environment.



Emilia Puteri, Dynavox representative, will present this hands-on session

Registration required.

No fee

Registration Deadline: 19 May 2011

**Thursday 26 May 2011
1 – 3:00 pm (Check-in 12:45 pm)**

Dynavox Advanced training – Enhancing Communication (Quick Tips)

Come and attend this training to “tune up” your efficiency in using your Dynvox communication device. Plan to attend one or both parts for learning new tricks and asking specific questions.



Presentation: Quick Tips and Helpful Hints 1:00 – 2:00 pm.

Gain new ideas on how to help your Dynavox user become more efficient, and use short cuts found in the InterAACt software system.

Open House: Bring your Dynavox System 2:00 – 3:00 pm

This part of the session is an open house for anyone who has questions regarding their Dynavox System

Emilia Puteri, Dynavox representative, will present this hands-on session

Registration required.

No fee

Registration Deadline: 19 May 2011

I CAN Centre for Assistive Technology REGISTRATION FORM

Check off the sessions you wish to attend
PLEASE fill out one form for each registrant

Workshops

- ☐ 17 February, 1 – 3 pm **PASS Software Online Session**
No fee
- ☐ 24 February, 1 – 4 pm **Using the iPod Touch, iPhone and iPad with special needs population**
Fee \$50.00
- ☐ 10 March 10 – 12 noon **Creating Visual scenes for children**
No Fee
- ☐ 10 March 1 – 3 pm **Creating Visual scenes for Adults**
No Fee
- ☐ 17 March 10 – 12 noon **Dynavox Advanced training - Learning: MP3 and E-Reader**
No Fee
- ☐ 17 March 1 – 3 pm **Dynavox: Advanced training - Email and Internet**
No Fee
- ☐ 07 April 9 - 3 pm **Boardmaker V.6**
Fee: \$99
- ☐ 14 April 10 – 12 noon **Classroom Suite V.4**
No Fee
- ☐ 14 April 1 – 3 pm **SOLO V.6**
No fee
- ☐ 12 May 10 – 12 noon **WIVIK and WordQ2**
No Fee
- ☐ 19 May 9 – 12 noon **iPods, iPads, and Apps for Literacy, Math, and Organization**
Fee \$50.00
- ☐ 19 May 1 – 4 pm **iPods, iPads, and Apps for Augmentative Communication**
Fee \$50.00
- ☐ 26 May 10 – 12 noon **Dynavox: Page Sharing & Environmental Controls**
No Fee
- ☐ 26 May 1 – 3 pm **Dynavox: Enhancing communication**
No Fee

Email List

- ☐ Please add me to the mailing list

Name:

Agency Name:

Address:

City:

Postal Code:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Total payment included:

Payment can be made by cheque or VISA. Make cheque payable to Alberta Health Services

Visa #

Expiry Date

Name of Cardholder

For telehealth registration please identify

Telehealth Site (Hospital, school name):

Address:

Telehealth contact person:

Phone:

Email contact information:

Mail, fax or email registrations to:
Audrey Synowec, I CAN Centre
Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital
10230 - 111 Avenue Edmonton AB T5G 0B7
Phone 780-735-6070, Fax 780-735-6072
Email: audrey.synowec@albertahealthservices.ca

Education Activities in the I Can Centre

Please note that the deadline for course registrations is **two weeks prior** to the course date. We reserve the right to cancel a workshop if there is insufficient registration. Courses will be offered if there are ten or more registrants. Registration receipts will be available on the day of the workshop. Please advise the Centre if you need accommodations for special needs.

Important Information about Parking

Visitors attending sessions at the I CAN Centre can use parking meters in the Glenrose Underground Parkade, Blue Lot, and Red Lot in the sections designated for visitors, at a cost of \$1.75/half-hour. Daily parking passes for 8 hours can be obtained for \$15.00 from the Pay and Display Machine in the Underground Parkade,

Descriptions of products in the TechTalk Newsletter do not imply endorsement by the I CAN Centre for Assistive Technology. The Centre has no commercial links with any company or manufacturer

IMPORTANT NOTICE

I CAN Centre for Assistive Technology

new web address:

www.albertahealthservices.ca/icancentre.asp